

PRESIDENT: Is there further discussion? Senator Scofield, do you have anything more to add?

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Just briefly, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Hefner, for relaying the history of this bill and I would just like to reiterate that the bill, in fact, was brought by individuals and we have had a surprising amount of interest by individuals to do this. I was, frankly, under the impression at first that the wine industry, Senator Higgins, was probably going to oppose this bill, and then they took a look at it and I guess they decided that it was such a small fry operation they weren't even worried. I don't see anything wrong necessarily with a few individuals, since I am told that an average sized vineyard might be four to ten acres or someplace in that neighborhood. I don't know that there is anything terribly wrong with people getting together if, in fact, that kind of cooperative effort would enhance their chances of succeeding. You have a rather significant investment if you go into a small farm winery, I am told, perhaps as much as a quarter of a million dollars. Obviously, this would be good for the state, good for the economic development of the state, and I would once again reiterate, when they start to succeed, we will definitely want to tax them, and at healthy rates. And so I would urge you to go ahead and advance the bill. It is good for Nebraska. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Vickers, do you wish to close?

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, maybe the rest of you never had this problem but I am always behind reading the bills and I have a great bad habit of coming in and reading these bills on Final Reading before I vote for them, and if I think there is some problem with them, I do not hesitate an awful lot about raising the issue. Now, I am not trying to hurt the bill, I am not trying to say that the individual who wants to raise grapes in this state and produce wine should not be able to do so. I am not doing this for any lobbying group, any alcoholic beverage producers, or anything else. All I am suggesting is that under the terms of the bill where we are going to grant a 60 cent a gallon tax advantage to a farm winery that as you read the bill you could actually have ten people, all individual farms, all producing up to that 50,000 limitation that is in the bill that Senator Hefner referred to, but all